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SBR compounding for rubber coated fabrics

Energy loss in bending of cords

Computerization of ASTM D3677

Peroxide substitute in CPE cures

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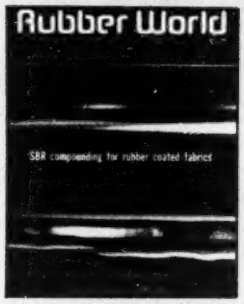

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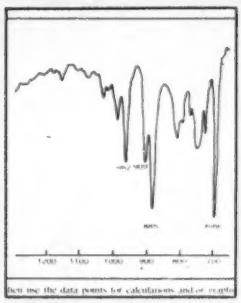

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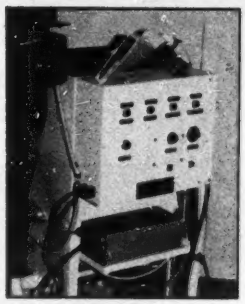

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Business Briefs

Acquisitions, expansions

Degussa AG, West Germany, has agreed to purchase most of the European carbon black business of **Phillips Petroleum.** The transaction includes Phillips' wholly owned companies in Botlek, Netherlands and Bordeaux, France as well as Phillips' 50% interest in carbon black companies in Malmo, Sweden; Bristol, U.K.; Ravenna, Italy and Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The capacities of these six plants is approximately 330,000 tons per year. Phillips recently sold its Borger, TX facility to Sid Richardson Carbon and is looking for buyers for its Orange, TX plant and its minority interests in operations in Mexico and India.

BFGoodrich sold subsidiary **Continental Conveyor & Equipment** to **Nesco, Inc.,** Cleveland, OH an international privately held corporation. Continental has its headquarters and a manufacturing plant in Winfield, AL and plants in Sherman, TX and Salyersville, KY.

Polyvinyl Chemicals Inc. is constructing a 10,000 sq. ft. addition to its research and development facilities in Wilmington, MA. When completed this summer, the new building will house three labs for synthesizing special-purpose acrylic and urethane polymers and four for developing new applications for paints and coatings.

Contracts, licenses

Synthetic Products appointed **Summit Chemical** as sales agent for its line of custom rubber dispersions in the far midwest and southwest.

Parker Hannifin established a joint venture company with **Tong Yang Chemical,** Pusan, ROK, to produce a line of industrial hoses and connectors in a plant previously owned by Tong Yang.

Paul-Monroe Fluidpower agreed to market the **Goodyear** Insta-couple product line in California.

Bekaert S.A. and the wire products division of the **BHP Steel International Group of Australia** formed a joint venture company in Geelong, Victoria to manufacture steel tire cord in Australia.

LC Finishing Equipment, Redwood City, CA will handle the custom rubber product line of **Lonstroff-BTR** of Switzerland in the United States.

Air Products acquired the exclusive rights to manufacture and sell certain **BASF** acrylic polymer emulsions for pressure sensitive adhesive applications in North America. Air Products also entered into a joint venture to manufacture barrier-treated, high-density polyethylene fuel tanks for the North American automotive industry with **Kautex Werke Reinhold Hagen AG** and **Peerless-Cascade Plastics Ltd.** of Canada.

Resinall Corp. appointed **H.M. Royal** as west coast representative for its line of hydrocarbon and rosin based resins.

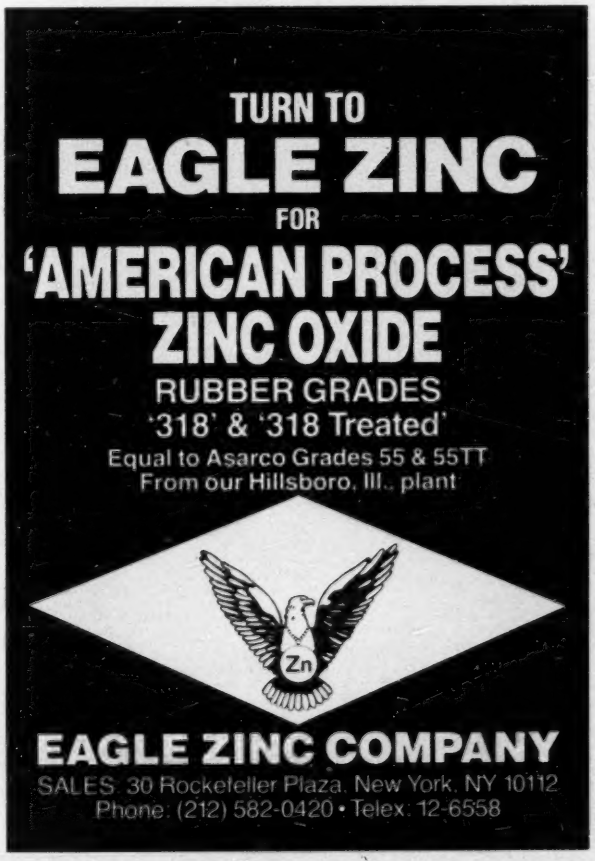
Ribelin Sales has agreed to distribute the **Schold Machine** line of dispersers, co-axial dispersers and shot mills throughout the southwest.

Financial statements

Asarco reported a net loss for 1985 of $62.1 million. In-

RMA tire shipments & production report through January 1986 (figures in thousands of units)

Passenger Tires	YTD 1985	YTD 1984	% Change
Shipments			
Original Equipment	5,000	4,920	+1.63
Radial	4,178	4,116	+1.51
Replacement	10,896	11,208	−2.78
Radial	9,266	9,238	+0.30
Export	341	554	−38.45
Radial	242	446	−45.74
Total	16,237	16,682	−2.67
Radial	13,686	13,800	−0.83
Production	13,422	14,971	−10.35
Radial	11,324	11,807	−4.09
Ending Inventory	32,630	34,207	−4.61
Radial	27,491	26,887	+2.25
Truck & Bus Tires			
Shipments			
Original Equipment	603	619	−2.58
Radial	388	390	−0.51
Replacement	2,470	2,540	−2.76
Radial	1,134	1,041	+8.93
Export	97	124	−21.77
Radial	57	59	−3.39
Total	3,170	3,283	−3.44
Radial	1,579	1,490	+5.97
Production	2,884	3,410	−15.43
Radial	1,339	1,413	−5.24
Ending Inventory	8,087	7,741	+4.47
Radial	4,131	3,483	+18.60



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come was $107.7 million.

Ausimont Compo reported 1985 revenues of $385.2 million with a net income of $25.9 million.

BASF Corp. earnings before taxes were $68.9 million in 1985 on sales of $2.6 billion.

Bekaert reported earnings of BEF 3,085 million on a consolidated turnover of BEF 44,896 million in 1985.

Blasius Industries had third quarter net earnings of $398,000 on sales of $10.6 million.

Degussa reported 1985 fiscal year profits of 112 million DM on sales of 11,714 million DM.

Du Pont reported 1985 net income of $1.1 billion on sales of $29.4 billion.

Eagle-Picher had first quarter sales of $162.4 million and net income was $7.8 million.

Gates Corp. reported sales of $1.1 billion for 1985.

GenCorp had a first quarter net income of $18.7 million on sales of $614 million.

Goodyear Canada reported 1985 net income of $144,000 on sales of $632.1 million.

Park Ohio had a 1985 net income of $6.9 million on sales of $186.1 million.

Rubbermaid Inc. reported net earnings for the first quarter of $15.7 million on sales of $185 million.

Markets, news

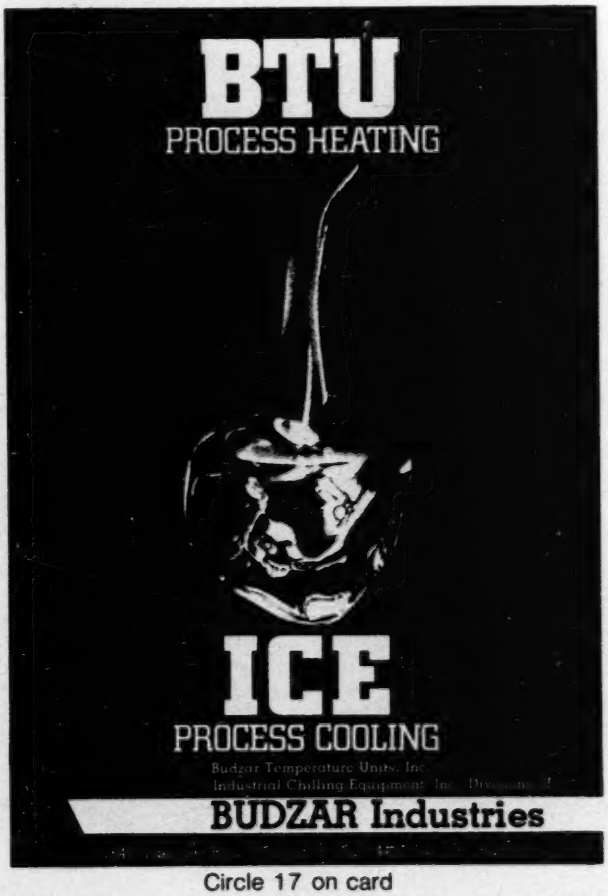
Domestic shipments of furnace carbon black by U.S. producers dropped nearly 11% in 1985 to 2.47 billion pounds according to a report by J.M. Huber Corp. This percentage decline was about equal to the increases experienced in each of the previous two years. The turning point actually occurred in mid-1984 and has continued unabated since. Total volume shipped decreased each quarter throughout 1985. It appears that the magnitude of the decline was exacerbated by lower inventories and some late 1984 prebuying by consumers, Huber says. The cycle may be nearing its low point, however, estimated 1986 demand is expected to be slightly lower than last year.

The percentage of hard, or tread, blacks of total black shipped increased to 56.4%, roughly one point higher than the previous two years. Part of this shift is a recognized result of tire compound changes. It also indicates that the drop in nontire rubber products manufacture exceeded that of tire producers. The decline in soft black usage exceeded 12%, whereas hard blacks were off by less than 10%. The adverse impact of tire imports continued to grow. Automotive tire shipments were down by a mere 0.2% but production decreased by 6.4%, according to RMA figures. Imported tires as a percent of replacement tire shipments grew from 20.8% in 1984 to 23.4% last year. In terms of carbon black, those imported passenger car and truck tires brought in 315 million pounds, 12.5% more than during 1984.

Both imports and exports of carbon black declined last year, imports by 9% and exports by 11%. The net import trade balance (based on volume), however, improved a bit to 74 million pounds from 1984's 81 million pounds. Canada and Mexico were the source of 133 million pounds and 95 percent of imported black. With the drop in black demand, the carbon black industry's average operating rate declined last year to 75%. Over the past six years, the operating rate exceeded 80% only once, and it has not reached 85% since 1978. As with the tire and other in-

Carbon black industry in the U.S.A. (metric tons)

		1985 Year	Percentage Change Year '85 vs. Year '84
N-100 (SAF)	Prod.	29,167	+11.1%
	Ship.	27,675	+ 4.6%
N-200 (ISAF)	Prod.	133,713	− 7.9%
	Ship.	130,341	− 9.4%
N-300 (HAF)	Prod.	502,818	−11.2%
	Ship.	497,767	− 9.8%
N-500 (FEF)	Prod.	101,385	−10.1%
	Ship.	99,961	− 8.1%
N-600 (GPF)	Prod.	286,559	−13.9%
	Ship.	283,832	−13.9%
N-700 (SAF)	Prod.	110,596	−12.6%
	Ship.	109,634	−11.3%
Total	Prod.	1,166,238	−11.1%
	Ship.	1,149,211	−10.5%
Domestic Shipments (Included Above)		1,118,802	−10.8%
Domestic Share		97.4%	



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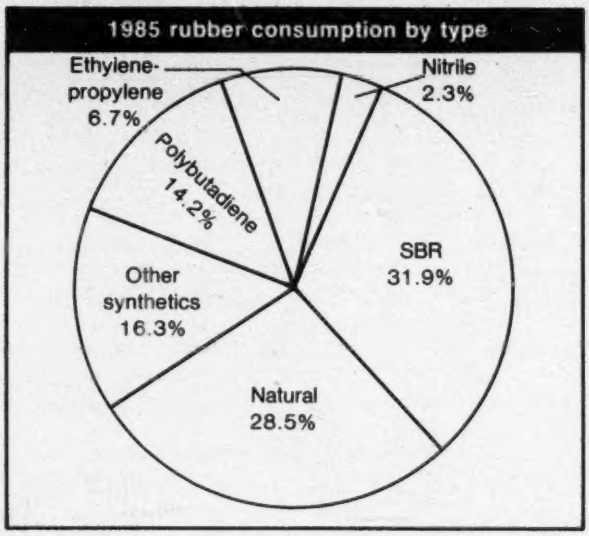

RMA rubber report through January 1986 (figures in metric tons)

	Cumulative 1986	Cumulative 1985	% Change 86 vs 85
New Rubber			
New rubber available	254,400	265,263	-4.10
Imports	87,881	90,657	-3.06
Exports	28,734	27,943	2.83
Apparent Consumption	220,093	233,039	-5.56
Natural Rubber			
Imports	64,661	72,782	-11.16
Exports	3,449	3,067	12.46
Apparent Consumption	59,431	72,098	-17.57
% Total new rubber	27.00	30.93	
Synthetic Rubber			
Production	166,519	174,606	-4.63
Imports	23,220	17,875	29.90
Exports	25,285	24,876	1.64
Apparent Consumption	160,662	160,940	-.17
% Total new rubber	72.99	69.06	
SBR			
Production	67,892	78,738	-13.77
Imports	8,909	5,464	63.05
Exports	6,978	6,531	6.84
Apparent Consumption	73,089	70,567	3.57
Nitrile			
Production	4,628	5,484	-15.61
Imports	858	1,167	-26.48
Exports	782	676	15.68
Apparent Consumption	5,249	5,140	2.12
Polybutadiene			
Production	30,249	29,382	2.951
Imports	4,880	4,288	13.81
Exports	3,750	1,474	154.41
Apparent Consumption	30,444	31,706	-3.98
Ethylene-Propylene			
Production	17,698	17,550	-.84
Imports	160	179	-10.16
Exports	3,101	2,732	13.51
Apparent Consumption	14,643	16,270	-10.00
Butyl, Polychloroprene, Polyisoprene, Silicone and other Synthetic Elastomers			
Production	46,052	43,453	5.98
Imports	8,413	6,777	24.14
Exports	10,674	13,463	-20.72
Apparent Consumption	37,238	37,258	-.05

dustries, there is substantial excess carbon black production capacity in this country. Based on a review of probable demand for the next five years, there is at least 300 million pounds of annual nameplace capacity, which could be retired from service without disrupting the industry's ability to meet market demand. This is nine percent of current capacity.

Consumption of most types of rubber were down for January, continuing a slide that began in 1985. Gains were posted for SBR and nitrile of 3.5% and 2.1% respectively, while the others posted declines. In 1985 total consumption of rubber was off almost 6.5%. Natural rubber consumption increased slightly while synthetic rubber decreased 8.8% to 1.88 million metric tons Rubber Manufacturers Association figures show. SBR remained the dominant rubber, accounting for almost 32% of all rubber used.

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